

ELKINS ASKS INQUIRY

Wants Investigation of High Cost of Living.

MAY BECOME AN INSURGENT

Exasperated by Delay in Getting Action on His Resolution for Inquiry into the West Virginia Tariff Colloquy—Aldrich Hastens to Defend Tariff—Lodge's Bill Indorsed.

The Senate was stirred to lively colloquy yesterday over the various pending resolutions authorizing an inquiry into high prices.

The many efforts of the Senate leaders to put Senator Lodge's resolution through and sidetrack the measures of Senator Elkins and other Senators who had proposed inquiries led to heated but informal consideration of the subject.

Senator Lodge came into the Senate with a favorable report from the Finance Committee on his resolution introduced Wednesday. When the report was submitted Senator Elkins looked pained.

A little later Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, who had introduced a resolution and referred it to the Agricultural Committee, requested a reference of it to the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate, to which Mr. Lodge's resolution had been assigned after the favorable report from the Finance Committee.

Stone Starts Trouble.

Then Senator Stone, of Missouri, started the trouble. He inquired what the Committee on Audit, etc., had done to Senator Elkins' resolution, more than a month before that committee.

This called Mr. Elkins into action. He declared there was something remarkable in the fact that the Finance Committee could act on Mr. Lodge's resolution overnight, while the Audit Committee could not get action on his own resolution in thirty days.

"In my course as chairman of the Committee on Audit and Control," replied Mr. Keen, "I have tried to follow the example of the distinguished chairman of Interstate Commerce, who, as Senators know, seems never to be in a hurry to report bills."

"When the Senator from West Virginia gets to be a member of the Finance Committee, he will be able to expedite his bills," observed Senator Bailey.

Senator Elkins declared the newspapers charged that the Senate leaders were trying to avoid bringing the tariff into the investigation.

"This brought Mr. Lodge to his feet. 'The fact that only a few days ago I made a speech on the very subject of the relation of the tariff question to prices ought to prove that I am not trying to dodge the tariff question in this investigation,'" said Mr. Lodge.

"The press of the country says that this is an attempt to dodge the tariff; the Senator from Massachusetts says it is not," replied Mr. Elkins.

"Which does the Senator from West Virginia believe?" inquired Senator Bailey.

"I reserve my decision to await the course of events here," replied Mr. Elkins.

Mr. Elkins read from his own resolution the direction to the committee to investigate the relation of legislation to prices. "That means the tariff," said he. "That has been left out of the resolution reported by the Senator from Massachusetts."

Commenting on the delay in reporting his resolution, Mr. Elkins said:

"I observe that when the Senator from Rhode Island gets back here, things move particularly fast because they relate to the bill he pushed through the Senate."

Mr. Elkins told how he had followed Mr. Aldrich's leadership, and complained that he should not be treated that way.

"I told the Senator from West Virginia when this tariff bill was under consideration how he could get everything he wanted for his own State simply by voting against the income tax," said Mr. Bailey.

Then in slavery," replied Mr. Elkins. "I had to follow the advice of the chairman of the Finance Committee even to get a few drippings from the tariff bill for my own State. Next time I'll follow the advice of the Senator from Texas."

Senator Aldrich denied there was any disposition to dodge the tariff question in the forthcoming investigation. He invited Senator Elkins to tell the Senate what, in his (Elkins) judgment, occasioned high prices, but Mr. Elkins replied

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

(February 3, 1910.)

SENATE.

The Senate convened at noon. Senator Elkins protests against effort to shield tariff in agitation for probe of high prices.

On motion of Senator Heyburn, draft of bill submitted by Ballinger is returned as a rebuke. Interstate Commerce Committee begins hearings on rate bill.

Senator Burke introduces bill relating to laborers' hours in District.

Continued opposition manifested against postal savings bank bill.

At an executive session, the Senate adjourned at 4:30 o'clock.

HOUSE.

As House convened at noon.

Entire time of session consumed in consideration of the agriculture appropriation bill, which passed shortly before adjournment.

Discussion of the congressional and diplomatic bill began in Committee of the Whole.

Favorable report ordered on ship subsidy bill.

The House adjourned at 4:30 o'clock.

that it was a matter for the committee to ascertain.

Senator Stone said the ignoring of Mr. Elkins' resolution was an expression of lack of confidence in him by the leaders.

Senator Bailey disagreed with this view. "It is because those in control want to go around the tariff in this investigation, that they do not want to intrust the investigation to the Senator from West Virginia," said Mr. Bailey.

"More than once the Senator from West Virginia has gotten off of the reservation over there. He has ceased to be an 'anarchist,' and is now becoming one of our most 'useful,' striking insurgents." He favored the income tax. He wanted to vote for it, but could not.

Later Senator Elkins reintroduced his food inquiry resolution and had it referred to the Finance Committee, saying he intended to test the sincerity of that committee.

SENATE REBUKES BALLINGER

Returns His Draft of Bill on Heyburn's Motion.

Vice President Sherman Forced to Act Under Rule Invoked Last Year Against Roosevelt.

Vice President Sherman, acting under a rule of the Senate (adopted in the last Congress by way of rebuke to President Roosevelt and Secretary Garfield), yesterday returned to Secretary Ballinger the draft of a bill which the Secretary had sent to the Senate "at the request of the President."

The communication was received in the regular course of morning business, and ordered referred to the Senate Committee on Territories. Immediately Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, got into action.

He called for the reading of the rule adopted by the Senate by way of disciplining Secretary Garfield, which directed that thereafter all bills sent to the Senate voluntarily by heads of departments not in response to a request of the Senate, should not be received officially or referred to committees, but be returned to the officer who transmitted it.

Senator Dooliver called attention to the fact that the draft of the bill was sent at the President's request.

Senator Bacon, a member of the Committee on Rules, declared that the rule applied to the "President equally with the departments under him."

After the rule had been read, Vice President Sherman explained that he had simply followed the usual procedure, and it was evident he was not aware of the rule. He made an order, at the demand of Senator Heyburn, annulling the reference to the committee, and directed the Secretary of the Senate to return the bill to Secretary Ballinger.

The proposed bill related to "the care of the insane in Alaska."

GRILLS PRESS AGENTS.

Representative Tawney made a fierce but ineffectual fight on the floor of the House yesterday to limit the activities of the press agents of the Forest Service.

He claimed it was impossible for a member of Congress to criticize one of these departments without getting belted over the head shortly thereafter in the public press, as the investigation of one of these press agents, who he thought, also prevented economy in the administration of the departments by stirring up public sentiment requiring money to quiet down.

Representatives Keifer, of Ohio, and Scott, of Kansas, defended the press agents, and Mr. Tawney's amendment to prohibit them from sending out information except when asked was lost.

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MEYER IN NO HURRY

Sanction of Congress Is Not Needed for Reorganization.

BUREAU CHIEFS BALK PLAN

Secretary of the Navy Has No Intention of Disciplining Capps and Rogers for Criticizing His Methods. House Committee Will Not Hammer Him—Approved by Taft.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer is confronted with the problem of dealing with the cases of the two bureau chiefs who have pressed before the House Naval Committee their opposition to his reorganization plan.

They are Washington L. Capps, chief constructor and chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, and Eustace B. Rogers, paymaster general and chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts. These officers gave testimony criticizing Mr. Meyer's plan for reorganization.

No Rebuke Imminent.

Mr. Meyer, it was said, has no intention of disciplining them, as he recognizes the right of a committee of Congress to interrogate officers of executive departments. Their testimony, however, Mr. Meyer believes, has made it plain they are out of sympathy with his ideas, and he is endeavoring to ascertain whether or not it will be more advisable in the interest of his administration to obtain other chiefs in their stead.

This would be difficult, however, as practically all the members of the construction corps are allied with Chief Constructor Capps in opposition to Mr. Meyer's reorganization. There will be no haste, it was said, in dealing with the two recalcitrant bureau chiefs.

Mr. Meyer's reorganization plan does not require the indorsement of the House Naval Committee, and there is some question as to whether the members of the committee will attempt to interfere with the plan, which has been in operation since December 1 last.

Several members of the committee feel that the reorganization scheme proposed by Truman H. Newberry, former Secretary of the Navy, was not given a fair trial. Mr. Meyer's reorganization, it was said, is entirely an administrative measure, and it does not require either the approval or indorsement of Congress.

The House Naval Committee, it was said, has inquired fully into the reorganization because of its general interest in naval topics.

Committee Is Divided.

Although the members of the committee are divided evenly upon Mr. Meyer's plan, it is not believed the committee will take any steps to hamper Mr. Meyer in the administration by requiring a return to the Newberry plan of administration, in order that it might be given a more complete trial.

Mr. Meyer's plan was approved by President Taft before it was put in operation. Mr. Meyer has not asked for reorganization legislation at the present session of Congress, except for the abolition of the Bureau of Equipment. He wishes to have his reorganization scheme in operation for a year or so before asking Congress to enact it into law.

WANT GRANT ENROLLED.

G. A. R. Urges Congress to Make General a Civil War Soldier.

Urging that Gen. Frederick Dent Grant be enrolled as a soldier of the civil war, the U. S. Grant Post, G. A. R., of Brooklyn, N. Y., yesterday transmitted to the Senate a petition asking that a law be enacted for this purpose.

The communication states that the commanding general of the Division of the Lakes desires to be mustered in as a soldier of the civil war by the Secretary of War. For the benefit of the law-makers, the veterans in their petition cite some historical facts that were read with interest.

It is set forth that Gen. F. D. Grant, although a boy of thirteen years, served as a volunteer aid on his father's staff through the siege of Vicksburg in 1863, and was twice wounded while carrying messages to Gen. Sherman, McPherson, and Logan.

He was under fire at the battles of Grand Gulf, Fort Gibson, and Champion Hill. The Grand Army post states with evident pride that the lad, who wore the uniform of a captain, conducted himself with bravery that endeared him to the "boys in blue."

AGRICULTURE BILL PASSED.

Budget Authorizes Appropriations Amounting to \$13,417,136.

The House yesterday completed consideration of the agriculture appropriation bill. The measure authorizes expenditures amounting to \$13,417,136.

A provision in the bill authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to make an inquiry into the cost of living went out on a point of order made by Representative Shirley, of Kentucky.

Just before the House adjourned it proceeded to the consideration of the diplomatic appropriation bill. Representative Perkins, of New York, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, announced that it was the purpose of his committee soon to report a bill providing for the erection or purchase of embassy buildings in some of the big capitals of Europe.

Protest Pending Milk Bill.

The Vice President yesterday laid before the Senate a petition from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Dairymen's Association protesting against the enactment of the Gallinger milk bill.

Annual Leave for Employees.

Providing that each and every employee of navy yards and government depots be granted thirty days' leave in each calendar year, Senator Penrose yesterday introduced a bill which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFS.

A bill to confer the grade of rear admiral, retired, on Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. N., the explorer, was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Hale, of Maine.

President Taft yesterday offered the position of surgeon of the port of New York to Charles D. Hille, Second Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. Hille took the offer under advisement.

By the terms of a bill introduced in the House yesterday Representative O'Connell directs the Secretary of War to cause to be constructed in the Susquehanna River, near Port Deposit, Md., eight ice piers at a cost of \$80,000.

Representative Grist yesterday submitted a concurrent resolution directing that 5,000 copies of the following songs be printed and bound for distribution to public and school libraries: "The Star Spangled Banner," "Hail Columbia," "America," and "Yankee Doodle."

SUCCESSOR TO RIXEY.

Appointment of Surgeon General to Be Decided To-day.

The appointment of a surgeon general of the navy to succeed Presley M. Rixey will be decided at the Cabinet meeting this morning. Dr. Rixey has been surgeon general since February 5, 1902.

There are two candidates for the office. They are Medical Inspector Henry G. Beyer, who is now on duty in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and Surg. Charles F. Stokes, who is on duty at the Naval Medical School in this city.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer and Senator Perkins, chairman of the Senate Naval Committee, are in favor of appointing Surg. Stokes. Dr. Beyer has the support of Senator Hale, former chairman of the Senate Naval Committee.

Secretary Meyer expects to announce the appointment at the conclusion of to-day's session.

Dr. Rixey will not retire for age until 1914, although he is eligible for retirement under the thirty years' service law.

SETTLE TARIFF ISSUE

United States and Germany Exchange Minimums.

BOTH COUNTRIES ARE PLEASED

Volume of Trade Estimated at \$500,000,000 a Year in Statement Made Public Yesterday by Secretary of State Knox, Explaining the Terms. Tariff War Has Been Averted.

Tariff negotiations between the United States and Germany, which have been pending for several months, have been concluded satisfactorily to both governments. The United States will obtain not only the German minimum rates now enjoyed under the special agreement that expires on February 7, but will receive also the benefit of all the minimum rates of the German tariff now accorded to foreign governments.

In return Germany will receive the minimum tariff rates of the Payne-Aldrich act after March 31 next, when the maximum and minimum features of the American law will become operative. Incidentally, the successful outcome of the present negotiations is a diplomatic triumph for Secretary of State Knox.

The fact that a tariff war has been averted is especially gratifying to officers of the State and Treasury departments, because of the fact that in the calendar year just ended the direct interchange of commodities between the United States and Germany exceeded \$400,000,000. Allowing for importations into Germany through other countries, the volume of trade between the two countries is estimated at about \$500,000,000.

Exchange of Minimums.

In announcing the conclusion of the negotiations, Secretary Knox made this statement:

"The basis of the settlement is that Germany grants to the United States her full conventional tariff rates in return for the minimum tariff of the United States. This is an exchange of minimums for minimums. It places the United States on exactly the same terms as all other countries to which Germany grants conventional rates under her various commercial conventions or most-favored-nation treaties."

"In the President's opinion the responsibilities devolved on him by the Payne-Aldrich act require from all countries a grant to the United States of substantially their lowest tariff rates."

"The satisfactory solution has been in a large measure due to the friendly and conciliatory spirit of the German government, which was recognized on both sides while in the variety and complexity of modern commercial conditions some points of divergence between two great commercial nations would be encountered, their nature was not such as to preclude an agreement which would be beneficial in the mutual markets."

"No objection is made to microscopic inspection by foreign countries, but the insistence on certificates of microscopic inspection from the United States and the failure to recognize the present Interstate inspection, which was substituted for it, has been to the admission of these products into the German ports."

The reasonableness of this position has been recognized by the German government, and under the agreement concluded the imperial authorities will take steps to modify the present regulations under which customs officials at some ports have refused to admit American pork products without certificates of microscopic inspection, thus securing uniformity."

"The scope of the negotiations covered the discussion of all the various questions that have in recent years vexed the exporters of both countries. The admission of American live cattle for slaughter in Germany and the regulations relating to the importation of meat products of various kinds, the German customs rules governing the drawback of duty allowed on flour when exported from Germany, all of which are of exceeding interest from the American standpoint, have been treated on their merits as questions entirely aside from that of equivalent tariff adjustment."

INSURGENTS LYING LOW.

Plotting Further Trouble for the Leaders of House Organization.

While the Republican insurgents in the House have been reticent for a day or so, they are plotting further trouble, and the leaders are looking out for squalls. The insurgent leaders now say they will make no effort to enlarge the Committee on Rules or depose the Speaker from that organization through the medium of a party caucus.

They believe if they took their case into a caucus they might be beaten. The plan to lay low for the present and seize the first favorable opportunity to bring the matter up in the open. Just how this is to be done has not been disclosed, but Representative Gardner has been entrusted with the duty of pointing a way.

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NAVY OPPOSES BILL

Mann Measure Would Civilize Lighthouse Board.

SENATE MAY AMEND MEASURE

Rear Admiral Marx, Secretary of the Navy, and Capt. R. L. Russell, U. S. N., Oppose Plan to Remove Officers. Illinois Representatives Want a Civil Commissioner in Washington.

Opposition to the plan of Representative Mann to "civilize" the lighthouse board developed yesterday morning at a hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce.

Without successfully controverting the assertion that there should be a controlling head for the Lighthouse Service in Washington, those who appeared objected to the removal of the officers of the army and navy from its membership.

In the bill passed by the House a bureau of lighthouses is created in the Department of Commerce and Labor, over which a commissioner, at \$5,000, is to preside. After hearing the objections offered to the change, the committee referred the bill to a subcommittee of Senators Elkins, Smith (Michigan), Burton, and Simmons.